

REMARKS

I. INTRODUCTION

Applicants thank the Examiner for the indication of allowable subject matter in claims 4-5, 9-10, 12, 16, and 20 and 22. Applicants have cancelled claims 17, 21 and 26. Accordingly, claims 4-5, 9-10, 12, 16, 20 and-22 are presently pending in this application. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the application in view of the foregoing amendments and the following arguments.

II. REJECTION OF CLAIM 17 UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 102(B)

Claim 17 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as anticipated by Berckhan (U.S. Patent No. 3,243,007). Applicants have cancelled claim 17 and therefore submit that the rejection has been rendered moot. Applicants have cancelled claim 17 without prejudice to pursuing claim 17 in a continuation application.

III. REJECTION OF CLAIM 21 UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 103(A)

Claim 21 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Roethlisberger (U.S. Patent No. 4,057,120) in view of Berckhan (U.S. Patent No. 3,243,007). Applicants have cancelled claim 21 and therefore submit that the rejection has been rendered moot. Applicants have cancelled claim 21 without prejudice to pursuing claim 21 in a continuation application.

IV. REJECTION OF CLAIM 26 UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 103(A)

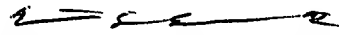
Claim 26 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Berckhan (U.S. Patent No. 3,243,007) in view of Omundson et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,357,769). Applicants have cancelled claim 26 and therefore submit that the rejection

has been rendered moot. Applicants have cancelled claim 26 without prejudice to pursuing claim 26 in a continuation application.

IV. CONCLUSION

For the above cited reasons, all of the claims presently pending in this application are believed to be allowable. If the Examiner has any further questions or concerns, the Examiner is invited to contact the Applicant's undersigned attorney.

Respectfully submitted,



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